

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

DATE: February 24, 2006
10:00AM

LOCATION: INDOT Indianapolis Traffic Management Center
Indiana State Police Post 52, Indianapolis

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Miller (Private Ambulance)
Jane Craigin (Hospital EMS)
Rodney Coats (General Public)
Myron Mackey (EMTs)
Michael Olinger, MD (Trauma Physicians)
G. Lee Turpin II (Paramedics)
Timothy Schabbel (Volunteer Fire)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tim Davie (Municipal Fire)
Sue Dunham (Emergency Nurses)
William Rutherford, MD (Emergency Physicians)

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael Garvey, Deputy Director
William Teegarden, Administrative Law Judge,
(ALJ)

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rodney Coats. Chairman Coats introduced Timm Schabbel, St. Joseph County, as the new commissioner from Volunteer Fire Services and G. Lee Turpin II from Evansville as the new paramedic member of the commission.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

Michael Olinger offered a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion was seconded by Gary Miller. The motion passed. The minutes were approved as written.

STAFF REPORTS:**EMS PERSONNEL CERTIFICATION REPORT**

First Responders certified this date:	6,717
Emergency Medical Technicians to be certified this date:	292
Emergency Medical Technicians currently certified:	15,637
Emergency Medical Technicians recertified this date:	278
Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians to be certified this date:	40
Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians currently certified:	1,253
Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians recertified this date:	58
Paramedics to be certified this date:	48
Paramedics currently certified:	2,640
Paramedics recertified this date:	180
Emergency Medical Technician-Intermediate to be certified this date:	7
Emergency Medical Technician-Intermediate currently certified:	109
Emergency Medical Technician-Intermediate recertified this date:	2
Temporary Certifications issued:	
EMT-B:	9
Advanced EMT:	0
Paramedic:	1
Drivers Certifications currently certified:	1212

Mr. Miller offered a motion to accept the report. The motion was seconded by Myron Mackey. The motion passed.

Tony Pagano reported that he had met a representative from the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for EMS Professionals regarding the paramedic accreditation program. He also reported that Sam Steinhilber is now the Test Manager in the Division of Training. Mr. Pagano stated that the new and improved Training Calendar is now on the agency web site. The calendar lists training and test site information.

EMS PROVIDER CERTIFICATION REPORT

ALS Non-Transport, Ambulance Service Provider, BLS Non-Transport, Basic-Advanced, EMT-I, Paramedic Organization	1
ALS Non-Transport, Ambulance Service Provider, BLS Non-Transport, EMT Basic-Advanced, Paramedic Organization	6
ALS Non-Transport, Ambulance Service Provider, BLS Non-Transport, Paramedic Organization	3
ALS Non-Transport, Ambulance Service Provider, EMT Basic-Advanced Organization	1
ALS Non-Transport, Ambulance Service Provider, EMT Basic-Advanced Organization, EMT-Intermediate Organization, Paramedic Organization	1
ALS Non-Transport, Ambulance Service Provider, EMT Basic-Advanced Organization, Paramedic Organization	18
ALS Non-Transport, Ambulance Service Provider, EMT Basic-Advanced Organization, Paramedic Organization, Rescue Squad	1
ALS Non-Transport, Ambulance Service Provider, Paramedic Organization	16
ALS Non-Transport, BLS Non-Transport, EMT Basic-Advanced Organization	2
ALS Non-Transport, BLS Non-Transport, EMT Basic-Advanced Organization, Paramedic Organization	2
ALS Non-Transport, BLS Non-Transport, EMT Basic-Advanced Organization, Paramedic Organization, Rescue Squad Organization	1
ALS Non-Transport, BLS Non-Transport, EMT Basic-Advanced Organization, Rescue Squad Organization	1
ALS Non-Transport, EMT Basic-Advanced Organization	1
ALS Non-Transport, EMT Basic-Advanced Organization, Paramedic Organization	3
ALS Non-Transport, EMT Intermediate organization	1
ALS Non-Transport, Paramedic Organization	3
Ambulance Service Provider	101
Ambulance Service, BLS Non-Transport	30
Ambulance Service, BLS Non-Transport, EMT Basic-Advanced Organization	4
Ambulance Service Provider, BLS Non-Transport, EMT Basic-Advanced Organization, EMT Intermediate Organization, Paramedic Organization	1
Ambulance Service Provider, BLS Non-Transport, EMT Basic-Advanced Organization, Paramedic Organization	2
Ambulance Service Provider, BLS Non-Transport, Intermediate organization	1
Ambulance Service Provider, BLS Non-Transport, Paramedic Organization	4
Ambulance Service, BLS Non-Transport, Rescue Squad	5
Ambulance Service Provider, EMT Basic-Advanced Organization	20

Ambulance Service Provider, EMT Basic-Advanced Organization, EMT-Intermediate Organization	3
Ambulance Service Provider, EMT Basic-Advanced, EMT-Intermediate Organization, Paramedic Organization	8
Ambulance Service Provider, EMT Basic-Advanced Organization, EMT-Intermediate organization, Paramedic Organization, Rescue Squad	1
Ambulance Service Provider, EMT Basic-Advanced Organization, Paramedic Organization	50
Ambulance Service Provider, EMT Advanced-Basic Organization Paramedic Organization, Rescue Squad	1
Ambulance Service Provider, Intermediate Organization	2
Ambulance Service Provider, Intermediate Organization, Paramedic Organization	4
Ambulance Service Provider, Paramedic Organization	34
Ambulance Service Provider, Paramedic Organization, Rescue Squad	1
Ambulance Service Provider, Paramedic Organization, Rotorcraft Air Ambulance	4
Ambulance Service Provider, Rescue Squad	1
BLS Non-Transport Organization	317
BLS Non-Transport, Rescue Squad	83
Rescue Squad Organization	6
Rotorcraft Air Ambulance	15
Total Providers	769

Dr. Olinger offered a motion to accept the report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mackey. The motion passed.

EMS OPERATIONS REPORT

EMS Vehicle Inspections:	207
Provider/Hospital Applications Processed:	80
EMS Provider Visits:	166
EMS Provider Audits:	19
Hospital Visits:	40
Hospital Audits:	04
EMT Tests Proctored	08

EMS Operations Director Sherrie Crain reported that the secretary's position is now open. Until a replacement is hired the district managers will each spend one day in the Indianapolis office answering phones, updating records, and filing.

EMS DATA REGISTRY

Mark Nelson reported that the database now contains a total of 1,382,509 runs. He asked that any provider using a private software vender needs to contact him for current EMS state certification. He also reminded providers that the vendors need their EMS programs NEMSIS certified through the NHTSA NEMSIS program at the University of Utah. Please check NEMSIS web site at: www.nemsis.org. The Indiana EMS Data Registry is coordinating with FireHouse Software (FHS) on its NEMSIS certification status. FHS Version 7 should be NEMSIS certified and available to Indiana EMS Providers on or about September 2006. Mr. Nelson said that the registry plans to start using the NEMSIS XML code set in January 2007 to transfer data to NHTSA. He informed the audience that EMS Providers will still transfer data to the state registry as they are currently doing, downloads via e-mails or diskettes, and they will not have to use the NEMSIS XML. He also stated that the Indiana EMS code set may expand due to federal grant needs, but that the number would be at the commission's discretion. Mr. Nelson reiterated that the current Indiana EMS run code set is 49 elements, the FHS code set is 71, and the current the NHTSA code set is 81. The NEMSIS data elements are 400, of which Indiana may use up to 150. This will make the CODES Grant Program, and future federal grants, better data gathering and better linking to crash and hospital data bases. Mike Garvey stated that Purdue University was CODES crash outcome data but they are not receiving good data from EMS. Providers need to file their data reports so that valid information can be gleaned regarding crash outcome. Mr. Garvey stated that the agency needed to develop an enforcement strategy for data collection to ensure that the data will be reported. **Mr. Miller volunteered to reestablish the Data Task Force to study the issue. Chairman Coats granted the request.**

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Advisory Committee

The minutes of the previous meeting were presented. Mr. Miller noted that the minutes reflected that the committee was going to look into pulse oximetry for BLS. Mr. Pagano replied that Ms. Crain will be making a recommendation to the commission later in the meeting.

Advisory Taskforce on Trauma/Emergency Preparedness

Deputy Director Garvey reported that the taskforce continues to meet. The group is looking at EMS issues such as transportation, transfers, and hospital by-pass for trauma patients. The Indiana Department of Health is taking the lead role.

LEGAL MATTERS

Pending Administrative Cases

No pending cases were reported.

Department Issued Administrative Orders

Agency Order No. 05-08, Steven D. Doty, Paramedic No. 27591. Appeal filed November 30, 2005.

Agency Order No. 1-2006, Theresa Rinehart, Paramedic No. 44888. Petition for review filed with the ALJ.

For information only, no action taken.

OLD BUSINESS

Use of Pulse Oximeters by BLS Personnel

Ms. Crain reported that many providers expressed disagreement with the commission's ruling regarding the use of pulse oximeters by BLS personnel. A survey was sent to 213 provider medical directors and 71 were returned. The overwhelming majority wanted BLS personnel to be able to use pulse oximeters. **It is the recommendation of staff that the Education Committee develop a training module for pulse oximetry and that the lesson added to all EMS curricula.**

Timothy Schabbel offered a motion to accept staff's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mackey.

Discussion followed the motion. Dr. Olinger questioned the conclusion gleaned from the survey sent to the medical directors based on the wording of the questions asked. He said that training is needed; if the BLS personnel use pulse oximeters then they must be trained. If they don't use it then training is not needed.

Mr. Miller reminded the commission that they did not take anything away from BLS personnel by their decision. Dr. Olinger added that the commission just reinforced the fact that the BLS scope of practice is defined by the curriculum. The decision was not about pulse oximetry it was about scope of practice.

After the discussion a vote was taken. The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Legislative Report

Mr. Garvey reviewed some EMS related legislation with the commission. HB1106 removes the requirements that a person or entity that acquires a defibrillator ensure that the users have completed certain courses and have enlisted a physician for medical direction. The legislation also exempts fire service using AEDs from certification. Mr. Garvey noted that this would apply to those fire departments that had only an AED and did not offer other first aid care. SB248 relates to the establishment of a statewide

trauma system. SB247 addresses homeland security issues and allows for fees for certifications.

The National Report Card on the State of Emergency Medicine

Dr. Olinger commented that it was remarkable how poorly Indiana scored. Chairman Coats pointed out that no State did well in all categories.

EMS COMMISSION RULE WAIVERS:

Provider Waiver Requests

St. Joseph Hospital EMS, Huntingburg, 836 IAC 2-7.2-1(h)(2), twenty-four staffing on an EMT-Intermediate ambulance:

The provider wants to operate an intermediate staffed ambulance with a First Responder as a driver.

Staff's recommendation is to approve the waiver.

Mr. Mackey offered a motion to accept the waiver. The motion was seconded by Mr. Schabbel. Chairman Coats abstained. The motion passed.

Greene County General Hospital, 836 IAC 2-4.1-2-(3), UHF Communications for a supervising hospital:

The hospital wants to use VHF radios with a repeater system to ensure radio coverage in Greene County.

Staff's recommendation is to approve the waiver.

Mr. Miller offered a motion to accept staff's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Turpin. The motion passed.

Posey County EMS, 836 IAC 2-1(h)(2), staffing on a paramedic ambulance:

Posey County is experiencing manpower shortage due to the lack of budget to hire part-time and pay over-time to employees. All stations are not manned with an EMT to assist the paramedic at all times making it necessary for the paramedic to function as a Basic EMT.

Staff's recommendation is to approve the request.

Mr. Mackey offered a motion to accept staff's recommendation and approve the waiver for a period of one year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Schabbel. Mr. Miller voiced concerns about the money issues in the county. He recommended that the waiver be limited to one year. Dr. Olinger stated that it is BLS skills that save lives. **The motion passed.**

Porter EMS, IAC 1-2-4, a waiver of Basic EMT staffing on a neonatal transport vehicle:

Staff's recommendation is to approve the request.

Dr. Olinger offered a motion to accept staff's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Turpin. The motion passed.

Knox County EMS, 836 IAC 2-2-1(h), renewal of waiver of staffing on a paramedic ambulance:

Staff's recommendation is to approve the waiver.

Mr. Miller expressed concerns that the EMT shortage has not been corrected since the original waiver was granted. **Mr. Miller offered a motion to accept staff's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Turpin. The motion passed on a show of hands vote, 4-Yes and 2-No. Mr. Mackey abstained.**

Waiver to allow use of Pulse Oximetry by BLS Providers

Ms. Crain presented a recommendation from staff that the commission allow BLS providers to use pulse oximetry devices if they submit a protocol, a maintenance plan, and a training outline approved by the department's medical director.

Dr. Olinger offered a motion grant the waiver to BLS providers who submit a medical director's protocol and a training outline to the commission until the commission makes a final ruling on the recommendation from the Education Committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Miller. The motion passed. Staff was granted permission to approve similar requests as they are made until commission approved additions are made to the curricula.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN'S REPORT and DIRECTION:

2006 EMS COMMISSION MEETING DATES

Friday, May 19, 2006, Brownsburg Fire Dept. Headquarters/Training Center

Friday, July 11, 2006

Thursday, September 14, 2006 (Conference Meeting)

Friday, November 17, 2006

The location will be announced at a later date.

Mr. Garvey reported that staff was working on a rule package. He also reminded providers that it was important that their personnel complete the

100, 200, and 700 NIMS training. He said that the agency considered it a priority to strengthen the State's Mass Casualty Incident Response.

Dale Lanham, EMS Captain, Valparaiso, and Mike Okray, Porter EMS, presented a letter from Porter EMS Training Officer Dana Dutz requesting an Honorary EMT Certification for Erin Lew.

Dr. Olinger offered a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Mr. Miller. The motion passed.

Mr. Miller told the commission that the Indiana Ambulance Association is presenting engraved desk clocks to recent former commission members. The appropriate district manager will be making the delivery.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Approved by the Indiana EMS Commission: May 19, 2006